REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed October 27, 2004, has been received and reviewed. Claims 24-33 are currently pending in the application. Claims 24-33 stand rejected. Claim 24 has been objected to because of a misspelled word.

Applicants have amended claims 24-26 and 28-31. Claims 34-37 have been added. Claims 1-23, 27, and 32-33 have been canceled. In view of the above amendments to the claims, as described in more detail below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application as amended herein.

Specification

The disclosure was objected to because of the citation of an erroneous date. The paragraph added in the Preliminary Amendment has been corrected to change the filing date of Application No. 08/973,933 to December 16, 1997. No new matter has been added.

Various typographical errors have also been corrected in the substitute paragraphs.

Objection to Claim 24

Claim 24 stands objected to because the word "fullerenes" is misspelled as "fullerences" in line 5 of the claim. Claim 24 has been amended and no longer recites the term "fullerences."

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Obviousness Rejections

Obviousness Rejection Based on U.S. Patent No. 5,135,627 to Soane et al.

Claims 24, 25, 27, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Soane et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,135,627) in view of Jinno et al., Ross et al., and either Ekström et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,376,252) or Kaltenbach et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,500,071). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

Claim 24 has been amended to clarify that at least one anode or cathode is positioned in the central part of the channel, away from the edges. This amendment is supported in Figs. 8A-8E and Example 1.

Claim 29 has been amended to add the clarification that when the claim refers to electrodes disposed within a separation channel, it means that at least one anode or cathode is

positioned in the central part of the channel, away from the edges and that electrical fields can be generated in at least two directions within a plane parallel to the first major surface of the substrate.

Claims 34-37 have been added and are supported on page 6, top bridging paragraph. No new matter has been added.

None of Soane et al., Jinno et al., Ross et al., Ekström et al., and Kaltenbach et al. teach electrodes disposed within a separation channel. The references do not render the claims obvious because none of the references teach or suggest that electrodes are placed within a channel. Instead, the references show only electrodes that are disposed at the edges of a channel. Applicants have amended the claims to clarify that some of the anodes and cathodes are positioned within a separation channel.

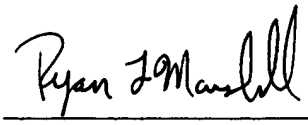
Also, the Examiner cited Ross et al. for the proposition that water soluble fullerenes have been prepared. Instead, Ross et al. discloses the analysis of aqueous solutions of dried pyridene extracts of lanthana/graphite root containing metallic fullerenes. The Examiner cited Jinno et al. disclosing buckminster fullerenes as a chromatographic stationary phase. However, the references individually and collectively do not teach water soluble fullerenes as an effective separation medium.

For these reasons, Applicants submit that claims 29 and 34 and the claims dependent thereon are not rendered obvious by the cited references. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should therefore be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Claims 24-26, 28-31, and 34-37 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, he is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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